

Claim 4. (amended) Felt according to Claim 3, characterized in that two or more textile backing elements (60) are disposed one above another and, between [the] upper and [the] lower [layer] textile backing elements, fibres are embedded.

Claim 5. (amended) Felt according to Claim 3, characterized in that longitudinal (40) and/or transverse (30) threads of at least one upper layer (70) of the textile backing element (60, 100) are connected to longitudinal (40) and/or transverse (30) threads of at least one lower layer (80) of the textile backing element.

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

At the time of the Action, Claims 1-10 were pending. Claims 2 and 6 have been cancelled above. Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under Section 112, second paragraph. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) and 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5). All pending claims stand rejected under either Section 102(b) or Section 103(a). The objections and rejections are addressed below.

II. The Objections to the Drawings

The Action states that the drawings are objected to for the absence of a twisted structure 50 and a corresponding reference sign. Applicants have cancelled Claim 6 above, thereby rendering this issue moot.

III. The Section 112 Rejections

The Action states that the term "the upper layer and the lower layer" lacks antecedent basis. Applicants have amended Claim 4 above to provide antecedent basis and to clarify the meaning of the claim.

The Action states that the term "at least one lower layer" should be augmented with the phrase "of the textile backing element". This amendment has been made above.

The Action states that Claim 6 includes the reference number "(50)" and the term "a multiply twisted structure", neither of which is shown in the drawings. As Claim 6 has been cancelled above, these issues have been addressed.